

Solution to **Recollections from the Zoo:**

Congratulations to Team Surfbort, JK, and Justin A. for being the first to submit the correct answer to last week's puzzle on our website.

If you enjoy puzzles, we hope you will join us at the annual Berkeley Mystery Hunt at the end of the spring semester.

This puzzle is the second in our ongoing series. Submit your answer on our website (<http://puzzle.berkeley.edu>). We will print the names of the first solvers to submit a correct answer in next week's column.

Week 2: Easy as ABC

Suspects, line up on the left.

Mr. Morbid was found dead in his locked office on the top floor of the Lifeboats Inc building

from the blow of a blunt instrument. Any one of his five employees—Andrew, Betty, Charles, David, and Ellen—could have done the murder.

First, we consider the means. Someone could have entered and left through the ventilation shaft, but they would have had to be agile. All the employees are quite clumsy. Only three of the staff—Betty, Charles, and David—have keys to Mr. Morbid's office, kept on their person at all times. A very strong person could have climbed up the outside of the building, but these suspects have trouble getting the office jar of pickles open.

Second, we consider the usual motives: love, money, and revenge. There was no office gossip concerning Mr. Morbid and his staff, so we doubt any affairs were going on. Money is more likely, since all the staff benefit from the will, but Andrew and Charles were making far more money from Mr. Morbid being alive and running the business. Everyone agrees that their boss had an unusually pleasant disposition, with no one seeming to have a reason to seek revenge.

Finally, we consider the opportunity. Mr. Morbid kept his office cold and often locked himself in for days working, so we can only pin down the time of death to Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. All day Monday the entire staff were at a conference off-site. On Tuesday, only Betty and Ellen came into the office. All the staff were in meetings with clients for all of Wednesday, except David, who was in the office.

Anyway, we still need to deduce the murder weapon.

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